



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

For Immediate Release

GOVERNMENT FUR SEAL SKINS SOLD AT AUCTION

A decline in prices characterized the semiannual auction of Government-owned fur seal skins at St. Louis on October 5, Secretary of the Interior Douglas McKay announced today. United States skins from Alaska and small lots of South African and Uruguayan skins were offered for sale.

A total of 27,113 skins from the Pribilof Islands, Alaska, where the sealing industry is administered by the Fish and Wildlife Service, was sold for \$1,944,920. At the last auction, in April, U. S. receipts from the sale of 24,400 Alaska skins amounted to \$2,084,191.

The grand average for Alaska skins sold for the United States Government was \$71.73. This compares with an \$85.42 average at the April auction.

Of these Alaska skins sold 16,017 were "matara" brown, 2,900 were "safari" brown (a lighter brown), and 8,196 were blacks. The matara skins brought an average of \$64.03 as compared with April's average of \$82.67. The safari skins sold for an average of \$45.23 as against \$59.51 in April. The black skins averaged \$96.17 compared to \$100.52 at the April auction.

Because sizes and qualities of skins differ somewhat from one auction to another, these comparisons must be considered relative.

In addition to the United States-owned skins, 5,001 Cape of Good Hope fur seal skins were sold for the South African Government at an average of \$25.86 per skin and 817 Uruguay fur seal skins were sold for the Uruguayan Government at a \$24.73 average.

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